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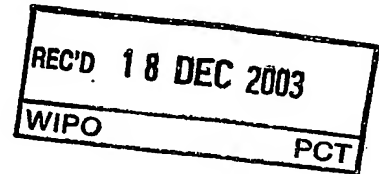
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Patentanmeldung Nr. Patent application No. Demande de brevet n°

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User access control to a server content, in a information carrier player

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**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to a method of controlling a user access to a server content, from an information carrier player comprising a parental control access.

5 The invention applies to information carrier players implementing a parental control level feature, such as DVD players.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

10 The DVD Forum has established a working group AH1-12 to standardize Web connected DVD, known as WebDVD. These new specifications are an extension of current DVD-Video specifications. They describe that DVD-Video discs compliant with these new specifications will be published with links to specific Web sites containing additional content directly related to the content of the DVD disc being played. These specific Web sites could include new navigation menus and content, which the player can download and use instead of  
15 original menus proposed by the DVD disc.

Players supporting WebDVD comprise communication means for connecting to Web servers which contain said additional content. Advantageously, such communication means can also be used to access any other general Web sites for general Web browsing.

20 In parallel, DVD players nowadays include a parental control feature. The purpose of this feature is to disable the playing of DVD discs that are deemed to be unsuitable for children. To this end, some DVDs are encoded with a specific parental control level. If the parental control level of the disc is higher than the parental control level of the DVD player (set by parents in using a PIN code), the player will not play the disc. This feature allows parents to limit the type of DVD content that can be played on the player.  
25

In DVD players implementing such a parental control level feature, this feature is limitative and no more relevant since it cannot restrict nor control the access to general Web sites deemed to be unsuitable for children.

**30 OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

It is an object of the invention to propose a method of controlling a user access to a server content, from an information carrier player comprising a parental control access.

35 The method of controlling according to the invention takes either advantage of the existing parental control access ever used in information carrier players, and the fact that the data stored on some servers which the user try to access are associated to a rating level similar to a parental control level.

The method according to the invention comprises a control step based on a comparison between said current parental control level and the rating level of said data, for selecting authorized data to be displayed on said information carrier player.

5           The setting of the parental control level in the player is not only used for controlling the access to the information carrier content (and to the linked Web servers to this information carrier), but also for controlling the access of Web sites in case of general Web browsing.

10           According to an additional characteristic, the method comprises a look-up table step for establishing a correspondence between the rating level classification of said data, and the parental control level classification of said information carrier player.

15           This characteristic allows the player to be adaptive to any labelling system which associates a rating level to data.

20           The invention also relates to an information carrier player comprising processing means for controlling a user access to a server content, from an information carrier player comprising parental control access means based on a current parental control level, said server content comprising data associated to a rating level, said method comprising control means based on a comparison between said current parental control level and the rating level of said data, for selecting authorized data to be displayed on said information carrier player.

25           According to an additional characteristic, the information carrier player comprises a look-up means for establishing a correspondence between the rating level classification of said data, and the parental control level classification of said information carrier player.

The invention also relates to a computer program comprising code instructions for implementing the steps of the method according to the invention.

30           Detailed explanations and other aspects of the invention will be given below.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

35           The particular aspects of the invention will now be explained with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter and considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which identical parts or sub-steps are designated in the same manner :

Fig.1 depicts the method according to the invention of controlling a user access to a server content.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Fig.1 depicts a first method according to the invention of controlling a user access to a server content. This figure describes an information carrier player 101 communicating via a network 102 with a server 103. For example, it describes a DVD player 101 communicating via the Internet network 102 with a distant Web site 103.

The player 101 comprises a parental control access step 104 based on the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) rating system.

The following Table 1 reports the different parental control levels (PCL) the player can be set to. The highest PCL = 8 relates to adult contents, while the lower PCL = 1 relates to kid safe contents.

MPAA Rating	Parental control level (PCL)	General Description
	8	Unrated (most restricted audience)
NC-17	7	NC-17 Adult theme or content, not suitable for children under 17
R	6	Restricted (mature audience)
	5	Mature teenage audience
PG-13	4	Parental guidance suggested, unsuitable for children under 13 (teenage audience)
PG	3	Parental guidance suggested (mature young audience)
	2	Most audiences
G	1	Suitable for general audiences (general, unrestricted audience)

Table 1 : MPAA Rating

This parental control access step is used for controlling the access to the content of an information carrier 105 (and as a consequence a control access to the specific Web sites linked to this DVD). The step 105 is similar to a switch controlled by a control signal derived from a comparison between the parental control level of the disc (designated by DVD\_PCL) and the current parental control level (designated by Current\_PCL\_I) set in the player 101. A user can access the disc content (and also to the specific Web sites linked to this DVD) only if Current\_PCL\_I is higher or equal DVD\_PCL. The index i corresponds to one of the MPAA rating value as defined in Table 1.

The player 101 is associated to a display 106 in charge of displaying the content of the accessed server, but also the content of the DVD disc 105 and the data of a specific server linked to this disc.

5           The invention takes advantage from the fact that data stored on some servers which the user try to access are associated to a rating level (referred to as RL in the following), such rating level being similar to a parental control level.

For example, the Internet Content Rating Association, as well as the Recreational Software Advisory Council on the Internet, propose labelling systems dedicated to owners of  
10 Web sites to label their data according to main categories :

- Chat
- The language used on the site
- The nudity and sexual content of a site
- The violence depicted on the site
- 15 - Others such as gambling, drugs and alcohol.

Each category may comprise sub-categories for better identify the data content.

Such a labelling of data is intended to be used in Web browsers in personal computers. The parameters settings of the Web browsers are set so as to allow only categories  
20 or sub-categories. If the Web site accessed by the user comprises data having a label excluded from these settings, the content of these data can not be displayed in the browser.

Usually, such labels are HTML-coded as meta tags in Web pages carrying data, either for a specific Web page, a specific folder of data, or for the whole content of the Web site.

25           The method according to the invention comprises a control step 107 for selecting authorized data to be displayed on the display 106. This control step 107 is similar to a switch controlled by a control signal 108 which is generated by a comparison step 109. The comparison step 109 performs a comparison between the current parental control level Current\_PCL<sub>i</sub> and the rating level RL of the data situated on the server and accessed by a  
30 user. For accessing a server, or a specific data on a server, the user may use the user interface 110, such as a keyboard where he enters the Web site or Web page address.

When the user try to access to the content of a data situated on a server 103, a request 113 to said server is generated by the player 101. In response, the sever 103 sends to  
35 the player the rating level RL of said data.

If the value of RL is such that, considering the current parental control level Current\_PCL<sub>i</sub>, data 111 are deemed to be unsuitable for children, the comparison step 109

generates a control signal 108 having a first state which opens the switch 107. As a consequence, the display of the data 111 is not possible.

5 If the value of RL is such that, considering the current parental control level Current\_PCL\_I, data 111 are not deemed to be unsuitable for children, the comparison step 109 generates a control signal 108 having a second state which closes the switch 107. As a consequence, the display of the data 111 is possible.

10 The comparison between the current parental control level Current\_PCL\_I and the rating level RL of the data may not be always possible directly, for example in the case the number of categories of rating levels are not identical to the number of categories of the MPAA Rating. Thus, the method according to the invention advantageously comprises a look-up table step 112 for establishing a correspondence between the rating level classification of the data situated on the server, and the MPAA Rating as described in Table 1. The look-up table 112 establishes a correspondence between an input rating level RL and an output rating level RL'.

15 For example, it can be decided to associate categories (nudity and sexual content of a site, violence depicted on the site) to a MPPA rating having a value RL' equal to 8, to associate categories (Chat, language used on the site) to a MPPA rating having a value RL' equal to 7, and to associate categories (Others such as gambling, drugs and alcohol) to a MPPA rating having a value RL' equal to 6. In that case, the comparison step 109 generates a control signal 20 108 having said first state if Current\_PCL\_I is lower than the associated MPPA rating of the data, and generates a control signal 108 having said second state if Current\_PCL\_I is higher or equal to the associated MPPA rating of the data.

25 Of course other classifications could be done in considering the sub-categories of said categories for refining the filtering of data that the user is allowed to look at.

The method of controlling according to the invention can take place in an information carrier player, such as a DVD player, or in any portable apparatus comprising a DVD player (PDA, mobile phone ...).

30 Such a method can be implemented by means of hardware elements (such as wired electronic circuits, memories, signal processors ...), or alternatively, by means of software elements such as computer programs comprising code instructions stored in a memory device, said code instructions being executed by a signal processor.

35 The words "comprise", "comprises" and "comprising" do not exclude the presence of other elements than those listed in the claims.

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of controlling a user access to a server content, from an information carrier player comprising a parental control access step based on a current parental control level, said server content comprising data associated to a rating level, said method comprising a control  
5 step based on a comparison between said current parental control level and the rating level of said data, for selecting authorized data to be displayed on said information carrier player.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising a look-up table step for establishing a  
10 correspondence between the rating level classification of said data, and the parental control level classification of said information carrier player.
3. An information carrier player comprising processing means for controlling a user access  
15 to a server content, from an information carrier player comprising parental control access means based on a current parental control level, said server content comprising data associated to a rating level, said method comprising control means based on a comparison between said current parental control level and the rating level of said data, for selecting authorized data to be displayed on said information carrier player.
4. An information carrier player as claimed in claim 3 comprising a look-up means for  
20 establishing a correspondence between the rating level classification of said data, and the parental control level classification of said information carrier player.
5. A computer program comprising code instructions for implementing the steps of the  
25 method as claimed in claims 1 or 2.



**"User access control to a server content, in an information carrier player"**

**ABSTRACT**

5 The invention relates to a method of controlling a user access to a server content (103), from an information carrier player (101) comprising a parental control access step (104) based on a current parental control level (Current\_PCL\_i), said server content comprising data associated to a rating level (RL), said method comprising a control step (109) based on a comparison between said current parental control level and the rating level of said data, for selecting authorized data to be displayed on said information carrier player.

10

Use : DVD players

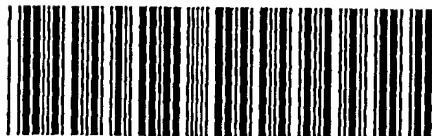
Ref : Fig.1

PHNL 021501 EPP



PCT Application

**IB0305827**



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